

Response

The claims were amended in accordance with the amendments above. The amendments are being made to clarify the invention and to focus the claims on those aspects of the invention which are a commercial priority to the assignee. The amendments are fully supported by the specification, claims, and figures as originally filed. No new matter is believed or intended to be involved.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication over the telephone on October 3 that the present amendments would overcome the rejections in the pending Office Action. The Applicant acknowledges that the Examiner reserved the right to supplement her search.

Applicant notes that an information disclosure statement was filed on 04/10/2001, but the Office Action did not indicate that those references were considered. Attached for the examiner's convenience is a copy of the prior information disclosure statement. Kindly initial the Form 1449 to indicate that the Office considered those references.

Based on the foregoing all pending claims are in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant submits that all pending claims overcome the rejections presented in the Office Action, and respectfully requests reconsideration and an early notice of allowance.

Respectfully Submitted,



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